

**Amendments to specification with brackets and underlining**

**Page 36, line 10, paragraph 2:** Please amend as follows:

**Hepsin: A trypsin-like serine protease:** The GenBank entry M18930 *Homo sapiens*, hepsin gene is as shown below (SEQ ID NO: 1):

**Page 37, line 1, paragraph 1:** Please amend as follows:

**Hepsin Protein sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2):**

**Page 65, line 18, paragraph 6:** Please amend as follows:

Reverse transcriptase (RT)-directed quantitative PCR was performed using the TaqMan 7700 Sequence Detector (Applied Biosystems) to determine the hepsin mRNA level in each sample. Human beta-actin mRNA was used as control. The nucleotide sequences of the hepsin TaqMan probe set used for the detection of mRNA levels detection were:

Hepsin-QF, CACTCAGCCCCGAGACCA (SEQ ID NO: 3);

Hepsin-QR, AGTCCCAGACAGCAGAACAAATATT (SEQ ID NO: 4); and

Hepsin-QP, [6-FAM]-CCAACCTCACCCCTCCTGACCCCC (SEQ ID NO: 5)-

[TAMRA].

**Page 67, line 29, paragraph 6:** Please amend as follows:

Polyclonal hepsin antibodies were generated using a 19-mer C-terminal peptide (WIFQAIKTHSEASGMVTQL) (SEQ ID NO: 6) and affinity purified by Antibody Solutions (Palo Alto, CA). Commercial anti-rabbit IgG (control) was purchased from Pierce and washed with phosphate